

Applicant : Christer O. Andreasson
Appl. No. : 10/086,183
Examiner : Julie Bichngoc Lieu
Docket No. : 706737.38 (formerly 263/292)

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Medication-dispensing ~~[[unit]]~~ units may be placed throughout the medical facility for temporarily storing medical products and for dispensing the medical products to healthcare workers, e.g., nurses, assigned to administer the medical products to patients. Each of the medication-dispensing units, e.g., stationary medication stations and/or movable medication carts, may be located on the same floor, wing, and the like of the healthcare facility as the patients intended to receive the medical products stored therein.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

In many cases, it is critical that medical products are administered to a patient within a period of time after they are removed from the dispensing unit 410. For example, certain medical products, e.g., chemotherapy drugs, quickly ~~[[loss]]~~ lose their potency when placed in an aqueous solution. To address this, the management computer 115 according to an embodiment may monitor the time period between the time that a medical product is removed from the dispensing unit 410 and the time that the medical product is administered to a patient. In this embodiment, when a medical product is removed from the dispensing unit, the dispensing terminal 140 may record the time that the medical product is removed from the dispensing unit 410 and transmit the recorded time to the management computer 115. When the healthcare worker, e.g., nurse, is ready to administer the medical product to the intended patient at the patient's bedside, the bedside terminal 150 may consult with the management computer 115 whether to proceed with the administration. This may be done, e.g., by having the bedside terminal 150 transmit medical product information read from the RFID tags 20 to the management computer 115. The management computer 115 may then retrieve the recorded time that the medical products were removed from the dispensing unit 410 using the received medical product information. The management computer 115 may

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then compute the time difference between the time of administration and the time that the medical product were removed from the dispensing unit 150. If the time difference exceeds a predetermined time limit for administering the medical product to the patient, then the management computer 115 may notify the bedside terminal 150 not to proceed with the administration of the medical product. The predetermined time limit may be based on a "half-life time" of the potency of the medical product.